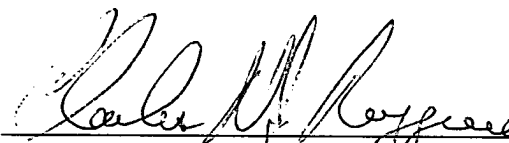


REMARKS/ARGUMENT

The above amendments to the claims have been made to clear up matters of form. More particularly, the above amendments to the claims have been made to conform the antecedent basis of the claims to U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

Entry and consideration of the proposed amendment is respectfully requested. Also, applicant respectfully urges favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Dated: August 20, 2003

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero", is written over a horizontal line.

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